

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ORM-02 DHA-02 AID-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 ACDA-07 EB-08 FEAE-00 COME-00 /106 W
-----181843Z 126223 /53

R 181810Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7484
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06670

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, PFOR, KE, BC, ZA, GW
SUBJECT: FRG ECONCOOP MINISTER VISIT TO SOUTHERN AFRICA

REF: (A) BONN 5078, (B) GABORONE 841, (C) LUSAKA 906,
(D) BONN 6473, (E) LUSAKA 985

1. SUMMARY: DESPITE SCHLEI'S APPARENT EFFECTIVENESS
AND THE GOOD TIMING OF HER VISIT, THE NEW FRG COOP
MINISTER'S AFRICAN TRIP RECEIVED A VERY BAD PRESS IN THE
FRG. ALTHOUGH SCHLEI'S POSITION IS NOT THREATENED, IT
DOES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DAMAGED. DURING THE TRIP
SCHLEI DISCUSSED FRG REFUGEE ASSISTANCE TO BOTSWANA AND
ZAMBIA AND, WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA, THE NEEDS OF
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BOTSWANA IN THE EVENT OF A BORDER CLOSING WITH
RHODESIA. SCHLEI'S MEETING WITH NKOMO WAS PRE-ARRANGED
THROUGH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND TALKS FOCUSED
ON FUTURE SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS AND A PROGRAM OF FRG
ASSISTANCE TO ZAPU. END SUMMART.

2. THE FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO LDC'S BY THE NEW

FRG MINISTER FOR ECONCOOP, MARIE SCHLEI HAS RECEIVED AN UNFAVORABLE PRESS PLAY IN THE FRG. THIS ADVERSE PUBLICITY HAS BEEN SO WIDESPREAD THAT IT HAS MASKED THE FACT THAT THE VISIT WAS WELL-TIMED AND APPARENTLY WELL-RECEIVED IN AFRICA.

3. THE PRESS ATTACKS ON SCHLEI WERE BASED ON AN ARTICLE IN DER SPIEGEL, WHICH WAS A HATCHET JOB WRITTEN BY A REPORTER WHO TRACED SCHLEI'S STEPS IN AFRICA, BUT DID NOT TRAVEL WITH HER. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SCHLEI'S TENDENCY TO BE BLUNT AND OUT-SPOKEN, SPIEGEL CAME UP WITH SEVERAL SCHLEI QUOTES WHICH REFLECTED DISPARAGINGLY ON SOME OF THE NATIONS SHE VISITED AND PEOPLE SHE MET. A SOURCE IN THE CHANCELLERY HAS TOLD US THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WAS NOT HAPPY OVER THE PRESS PLAY SCHLEI HAS RECEIVED. (THE LAST THING THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS AT PRESENT IS MORE BAD PRESS.) WHILE IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME FOR HER TO RECOVER HER STANDING IN THE CHANCELLERY, SCHLEI'S POSITION DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE THREATENED.

4. THE FEELING THAT SCHLEI WAS EFFECTIVE IN AFRICA HAS BEEN CONFIRMED TO US BY THE DIRECTOR FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA IN THE COOPMIN, AS WELL AS BY THE APPROPRIATE DESK OFFICER IN THE FONOFF. OUR FONOFF SOURCE DISCOUNTED THE DEROGATORY REMARKS IN THE PRESS AS EXAGGERATIONS MADE FOR DOMESTIC FRG POLITICAL PURPOSES AND EMPHASIZED THAT FONMIN GENSCHER IS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN GOOD WORKING RELATIONS WITH SCHLEI IN SPITE OF SOME ACCUSATIONS THAT SCHLEI HAD ACTED LIKE A FOREIGN

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MINISTER DURING HER TRIP. OUR COOPMIN SOURCE HAS GIVEN US THE FOLLOWING DETAILED BRIEFING ON SCHLEI'S TALKS.

5. BOTSWANA: SCHLEI MET WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA OF BOTSWANA FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS. KHAMA WELCOMED THE VISIT AS A COUNTER TO THE RECENT PODGORNÝ AND CASTRO VISITS WHICH "COULD NOT BE REFUSED". SCHLEI ASKED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF RHODESIA AND KHAMA REPLIED THAT HE COULDN'T ESTIMATE A TIME FRAME IN WHICH THE SMITH REGIME COULD BE EXPECTED TO FALL, BUT COULD STATE CLEARLY THAT HE SAW NKOMO AS AN INTEGRATING FORCE AND AS THE TRUE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. KHAMA ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE EASTERN AND WESTERN WAR FRONTS WERE NOT COORDINATED. ASKED ABOUT MUZOREWA, KHAMA STATED THAT HE WOULD GET A LOT OF VOTES IN AN ELECTION, BUT MUZOREWA'S IMAGE OF INDECISIVENESS DAMAGES HIS FUTURE PROSPECTS.

6. THE PROBABILITY THAT THE BORDER BETWEEN RHODESIA

AND BOTSWANA WOULD BE CLOSED IN THE COMING MONTHS AS A
RESULT OF ESCALATED VIOLENCE WAS RAISED BY KHAMA. IN
THAT EVENTUALITY BOTSWANA WOULD DESPERATELY NEED ROLLING
STOCK AND LOCOMOTIVES IF THE EXISTING EQUIPMENT WERE IN

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RHODESIA AT THE TIME OF THE CLOSING. KHAMA CLAIMED HE
IS INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY OF SRI LANKAN AND
INDIAN MANAGERS FOR A RAILROAD SYSTEM IF THE BORDER IS
CLOSED AND IS ALSO PREPARED TO CONSIDER THE LEASE OF
EQUIPMENT FROM SOUTH AFRICA IF SOUTH AFRICANS WERE
PREPARED TO RUN THE LINE. KHAMA ALSO SPECIFICALLY
MENTIONED THE NEED FOR A STRATEGIC OIL RESERVE IN THE
EVENT OF A RAIL CUT OFF. SCHLEI PROMISED THAT THE FRG
WOULD ACTIVELY FOLLOW UP KHAMA'S REQUESTS WITH
FEASIBILITY STUDIES.

7. SCHLEI THEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE FRG WAS PREPARED TO
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GIVE BOTSWANA DM 500,000 FOR REFUGEE ASSISTANCE. KHAMA AND HIS ASSISTANTS STOOD AND APPLAUDED THIS OFFER. HE EMPHASIZED THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE REFUGEE PROBLEM, WITH AS MANY REFUGEES COMING FROM ANGOLA AND NAMIBIA AS FROM ZIMBABWE. ONLY IF THE REFUGEES HAD SHELTER, FOOD, AND EDUCATION COULD THEY BE DIVERTED FROM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. HE COMPLAINED THAT MANY REFUGEES MOVE QUICKLY ON FROM FRANCISTOWN TO LUSAKA CAUSING FURTHER PRESSURES.

8. IN ZAMBIA SCHLEI HAD A SHORT MEETING WITH KAUNDA DURING WHICH SHE ANNOUNCED THAT THE FRG WOULD GIVE ZAMBIA DM 1 MILLION FOR REFUGEE ASSISTANCE. KAUNDA STATED HE UNDERSTOOD FRG RELUCTANCE TO PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND WELCOMED NON-MILITARY SUPPORT.

9. SCHLEI MET FOR THREE HOURS APRIL 1 WITH NKOMO IN THE RESIDENCE OF THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO ZAMBIA. A SCHLEI-NKOMO MEETING HAD BEEN PREARRANGED BETWEEN NKOMO'S CLOSE COLLABORATOR, NDLOVU, AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS WHEN NDLOVU WAS IN BONN AT THE INVITATION OF THE SPD. SCHLEI WAS INFORMED BY SPD CHAIRMAN BRANDT THAT A MEETING WITH NKOMO HAD BEEN ARRANGED AND THAT SHE SHOULD ACCEPT THE OPPORTUNITY. SCHLEI ALSO CLEARED THE MEETING WITH BOTH KAUNDA AND KHAMA DURING HER TALKS WITH THEM.

10. NKOMO OPENED HIS MEETING WITH SCHLEI WITH A 45 MINUTE DESCRIPTION OF HIS PERSONAL PREDICAMENT. HE STATED THAT HE IS FORCED TO TAKE WEAPONS FROM THE COMMUNISTS SINCE THE WEST WOULD GIVE HIM NONE. IF HE DID NOT ORGANIZE SOME OF THE OPPOSITION, MUGABE WOULD HAVE A FREE FIELD. HE WAS VERY ANGRY ABOUT THE CANCELLATION, WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION, OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE BY RICHARDS. AND ALTHOUGH HE IS PREPARED TO TALK AGAIN, HE WOULD ONLY RETURN TO GENEVA ON A NON-BRITISH INITIATIVE. HE DISPARAGED MUZOREWA'S ATTEMPTED
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COMPROMISE WITH SMITH AS UNACCEPTABLE.

11. NKOMO WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO SCHLEI SINCE SHE IS THE FIRST WESTERN MINISTER HE HAS HAD A CHANCE TO TALK TO. HE SUSPECTED THAT WESTERN FOREIGN

OFFICES STOPPED VISITORS BEFORE THEY HAD A CHANCE TO MEET HIM. NKOMO ASKED FOR SHORT-TERM HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO PROTECT HIS PEOPLE FROM THE COMING AFRICAN WINTER. ONLY IN THAT WAY COULD HE CONTROL THEM EFFECTIVELY. FOR THE MEDIUM-TERM NKOMO REQUESTED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING OF HIS PEOPLE SO THEY WOULD BE PREPARED AS BANKERS, DOCTORS, AND MECHANICS TO RUN ZIMBABWE. FOR THE LONG-TERM HE ASKED THE FRG TO PREPARE ECONOMIC STUDIES ON DEVELOPMENT, TRADE, AND BOP ISSUES TO BE USED BY A NEW ZIMBABWE GOVERNMENT IN FORMULATING ECONOMIC POLICY. FOR ALL OF THESE PROPOSALS SCHLEI PROMISED ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BY THE FRG. IT WAS LATER ARRANGED THAT NKOMO WOULD SUBMIT SPECIFIC PROPOSALS THROUGH THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN LUSAKA (REF E). NONE HAVE AS YET BEEN RECEIVED.

12. IN KENYA, AFTER MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND AS SHE WAS PREPARING TO FLY HOME, SCHLEI MET MUZOREWA AT THE NAIROBI AIRPORT BY CHANCE. HE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THE FRG PROVIDES CHURCH GROUPS IN ZIMBABWE FOR TRAINING PROGRAMS (COOPMIN STATES THAT DM 50 MILLION, HALF PRIVATE AND HALF GOVERNMENT FUNDS, HAS BEEN CHanneLED THROUGH CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS). MUZOREWA THEN GAVE SCHLEI A COPY OF A SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL HE INTENDED TO GIVE FONMIN OWEN IN LONDON LATER THAT DAY. HE ALSO EXPRESSED GREAT HOPE IN A FUTURE U.S. ROLE IN ARRANGING A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT. STOESEL

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